

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amended the claims as shown on the attached sheets.

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1. (original) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels, which comprises reacting lithium hydroxide and a titanium alkoxide at elevated temperature in a reaction mixture which forms water of reaction.
2. (original) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture which forms water of reaction comprises an alcohol or a glycol ether and a carboxylic acid.
3. (currently amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 50 to 180°C and a pressure of from 0.1 to 3 bar.
4. (currently amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the molar ratio of titanium alkoxide to the first component for the reaction forming water of reaction is from 0.8:1 to 50:1.
5. (currently amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the molar ratio of the first component to the second component for the reaction forming water of reaction is from 3:1 to 0.95:1.
6. (currently amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the spinels are sintered at from 350 to 700°C.
7. (currently amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the particle size is

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from 1 to 200 nm.

8. (currently amended) A nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinel which has a particle size of from 1 to 200 nm and is prepared as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels prepared as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ as anode material.